

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

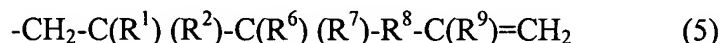
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended)) A vinyl polymer having a crosslinkable silyl group at at least one terminus of its main chain, which is prepared by adding a hydrosilane compound having a crosslinkable silyl group to the polymer according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 13.

Claim 13 (Original) A vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group of the following general formula (5) at at least one terminus of its main chain:



(wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group; R^6 and R^7 are the same or different, and each represents an electron-withdrawing group or one of them represents an electron-withdrawing group with the other representing hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or phenyl; R^8 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more ether bonds; R^9 represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms).

Claim 14 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 13 wherein an electron-withdrawing group represents one group selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}$ (in which R represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms), $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}$ (R represents the same as mentioned above), and $-\text{CN}$.

Claim 15 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein its main chain is prepared by polymerizing a (meth)acrylic acid type monomer.

Claim 16 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 15 wherein the (meth)acrylic acid type monomer is an acrylic ester monomer.

Claim 17 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 15 wherein the (meth)acrylic acid type monomer is a methacrylic ester monomer.

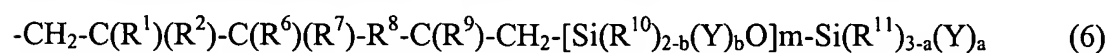
Claim 18 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 16 wherein the acrylic ester is butyl acrylate.

Claim 19 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein its main chain is prepared by polymerizing a styrene type monomer.

Claim 20 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 13 ~~any one of Claims 13 to 19~~, wherein a ratio (Mw/Mn) of its weight average molecular weight (Mw) to number average molecular weight (Mn) as determined by gel permeation chromatography is not over 1.8.

Claim 21 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 13 ~~any one of Claims 13 to 20~~, wherein its number average molecular weight ranges from 500 to 100000.

Claim 22 (Original) A vinyl polymer having an crosslinkable silyl group of the following general formula (6) at at least one terminus of its main chain:



[wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group; R^6 and R^7 are the same or different, each represents an electron-withdrawing group or one of them represents an electron-withdrawing group with the other representing hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or phenyl; R^8 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more ether

bonds; R^9 represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms; R^{10} and R^{11} are the same or different, each represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or a triorganosiloxy group of the formula $(R')_3SiO-$ (R' represents a univalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms and three Rs are the same or different) and when two or more R^{10} or R^{11} occur, they are the same or different; Y represents hydroxyl or a hydrolyzable group and when two or more Y occur, they are the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2, or 3; b represents 0, 1, or 2; m represents an integer of 0 to 19, provided that $a+mb \geq 1$].

Claim 23 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 22 wherein the electron-withdrawing group represents one group selected from the group consisting of $-CO_2R$ (in which R represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms), $-C(O)R$ (R represents the same as described above), and $-CN$.

Claim 24 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 22 ~~or 23~~ wherein its main chain is prepared by polymerizing a (meth)acrylic acid type monomer.

Claim 25 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 24 wherein the (meth)acrylic acid type monomer is an acrylic ester monomer.

Claim 26 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 24 wherein the (meth)acrylic acid type monomer is a methacrylic ester monomer.

Claim 27 (Original) The polymer according to Claim 25 wherein the acrylic ester monomer is butyl acrylate.

Claim 28 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 22 ~~or 23~~ wherein its main chain is prepared by polymerizing a styrene type monomer.

Claim 29 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 22 ~~any one of Claims 22 to 28~~, wherein a ratio (Mw/Mn) of its weight average molecular weight (Mw) to number average molecular weight (Mn) as determined by gel permeation chromatography is not over 1.8.

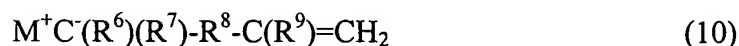
Claim 30 (Currently amended) The polymer according to Claim 22 ~~any one of Claims 22 to 29~~, wherein its number average molecular weight ranges from 500 to 100000.

Claims 31-37 (Cancelled).

Claim 38 (Currently amended) A method for preparing the vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group at a terminus of its main chain according to Claim 13 ~~any one of Claims 13 to 21~~, which comprises polymerizing a vinyl monomer to obtain a vinyl polymer having a group of the following general formula (7) at at least one terminus of its main chain, and substituting an alkenyl-containing carbanion of the following general formula (10) for the terminal halogen of said polymer:



(wherein R^1 and R^2 are same or different, and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group and X represents chlorine, bromine, or iodine);



(wherein R^6 and R^7 each represents an electron-withdrawing group or one of them represents an electron-withdrawing group with the other representing hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or phenyl; R^8 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more ether bonds; R^9 represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms; M^+ represents an alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion).

Claim 39 (Original) The method according to Claim 38 wherein M^+ represents sodium ion or potassium ion.

Claim 40 (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 38 ~~or 39~~ wherein said vinyl monomer is polymerized using an organohalogen compound or a sulfonyl halide compound as an initiator and a transition metal complex as an catalyst.

Claim 41 (Original) The method according to Claim 40 wherein the transition metal complex is a complex of one metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, ruthenium and iron.

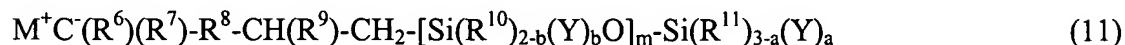
Claim 42 (Original) The method according to Claim 41 wherein the transition metal complex is a complex of cooper.

Claim 43 (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 38 ~~or 39~~ wherein said vinyl monomer is polymerized using a chain transfer agent.

Claim 44 (Currently amended) A method for preparing the vinyl polymer having a crosslinkable silyl group at a terminus of its main chain according to Claim 22 ~~any one of Claims 22 to 30~~, which comprises polymerizing a vinyl monomer to obtain a vinyl polymer having a group of the following general formula (7) at at least one terminus of its main chain, and substituting a crosslinkable silyl-containing carbanion of the following general formula (11) for a terminal halogen of said polymer;



(wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group and X represents chlorine, bromine, or iodine);



[wherein R^6 and R^7 are the same or different, and each represents an electron-withdrawing group or one of them represents an electron-withdrawing group with the other representing hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or phenyl; R^8 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more ether bonds; R^9 represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms; R^{10} and R^{11} are the same or different, and each represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6

to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or a triorganosiloxy group of the formula $(R')_3SiO-$ (R' represents a univalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms and three R' 's are the same or different) and when two or more R^{10} or R^{11} occur, they are the same or different; Y represents hydroxyl or a hydrolyzable group and when two or more Y occur, they are the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2, or 3; b represents 0, 1, or 2; m represents an integer of 0 to 19, provided that $a+mb \geq 1$; M^+ represents an alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion].

Claim 45 (Original) The method according to Claim 44 wherein M^+ represents sodium ion or potassium ion.

Claim 46 (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 44 ~~or 45~~ wherein said vinyl monomer is polymerized using an organohalogen compound or a sulfonyl halide compound as an initiator and a transition metal complex as a catalyst.

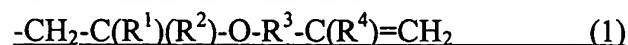
Claim 47 (Original) The method according to Claim 46 wherein the transition metal complex is a complex of one metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, ruthenium and iron.

Claim 48 (Original) The method according to Claim 47 wherein the transition metal complex is a complex of copper.

Claim 49 (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 44 ~~or 45~~ wherein said vinyl monomer is polymerized using a chain transfer agent.

Claim 50 (Cancelled).

Claim 51 (Currently amended) A curable composition comprising (a) the vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group of the following general formula (1) at a terminus of its main chain ~~according to any one of Claims 1 to 11~~:



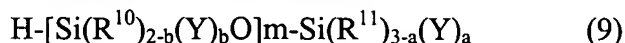
(wherein R¹ and R² are the same or different, and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group; R³ represents a divalent organic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more ether or ester bonds; R⁴ represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms), and (b) a hydrosilyl-containing compound.

Claim 52 (Original) A curable composition comprising, as a principal component, the vinyl polymer having a crosslinkable silyl group at a terminus of its main chain according to Claim 12.

Claim 53 (Currently amended) A curable composition comprising (a) the vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group at a terminus of its main chain according to Claim 13 ~~any one of Claims 13 to 21~~ and (b) a hydrosilyl-containing compound.

Claim 54 (Currently amended) A curable composition comprising, as a principal component, the vinyl polymer having a crosslinkable silyl group at a terminus of its main chain according to Claim 22 ~~any one of Claims 22 to 30~~.

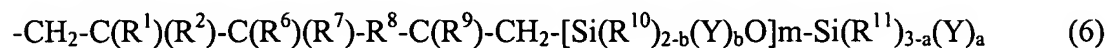
Claim 55 (New) A method for preparing the vinyl polymer having a crosslinkable silyl group at a terminus of its main chain which comprises adding a hydrosilane compound having a crosslinkable silyl group of the following general formula (9):



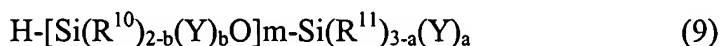
wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are the same or different, each represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or a triorganosiloxy group of the formula (R')₃SiO-, wherein R' represents a univalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms and three R's are the same or different and when two or more R¹⁰ or R¹¹ occur, they are the same or different; Y represents hydroxyl or a hydrolyzable group and when two or more Y occur, they are the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2, or 3; b represents 0, 1, or 2; m represents an integer of 0 to 19, provided that a+mb≥1

to the vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group at at least one terminus of its main chain according to claim 13.

Claim 56 (New) A method for preparing the vinyl polymer having a crosslinkable silyl group of the following formula (6) at at least a terminus of its main chain:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group; R^6 and R^7 are the same or different, each represents an electron-withdrawing group or one of them represents an electron-withdrawing group with the other representing hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or phenyl; R^8 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more ether bonds; R^9 represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms; R^{10} and R^{11} are the same or different, each represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or a triorganosiloxy group of the formula $(\text{R}')_3\text{SiO}-\text{R}'$ represents a univalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms and three Rs are the same or different and when two or more R^{10} or R^{11} occur, they are the same or different; Y represents hydroxyl or a hydrolyzable group and when two or more Y occur, they are the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2, or 3; b represents 0, 1, or 2; m represents an integer of 0 to 19, provided that $a+mb \geq 1$; which comprises adding a hydrosilane compound having a crosslinkable silyl group of the following general formula (9):



wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are the same or different, each represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or a triorganosiloxy group of the formula $(\text{R}')_3\text{SiO}-$, wherein R' represents a univalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms and three R's are the same or different and when two or more R^{10} or R^{11} occur, they are the same or different; Y represents hydroxyl or a hydrolyzable group and when two or more Y occur, they are the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2, or 3; b represents 0, 1, or 2; m represents an integer of 0 to 19, provided that $a+mb \geq 1$

to the vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group at at least one terminus of its main chain according to claim 13.